

## MORE POST OFFICE ARRESTS.

### TWO OF MACHEN'S FORMER SUBORDINATES IN CUSTODY.

They Are Accused of Accepting \$8,000 in Bribes From a Mail Pouch Manufacturer—The Government Pays \$18,000 for Pouches That Could Have Been Bought for \$8,000—Grand Jury Indicts Machen for Accepting Bribes.

WASHINGTON, June 5.—To-day was one of the most important days in the widening circle of Post Office Department scandals. At 5 o'clock this afternoon the Federal Grand Jury, after one of the shortest sessions on record, indicted former General Superintendent August W. Machen of the free delivery service on nine separate counts, charging him with having received bribes amounting in all to \$18,000 from the firm of Groff Bros. of this city, manufacturers of a patent fastener in general use on street letter boxes. At 5 o'clock this afternoon Thomas W. McGregor and C. Elsworth Upton, two of Mr. Machen's former subordinates in the free delivery division of the Post Office Department, were arrested on warrants charging them with having received \$8,000 in bribes from Charles E. Smith, a mail pouch manufacturer of Baltimore. Other arrests of those implicated in Post Office scandals will follow in a few days.

The complaint sets forth that McGregor and Upton agreed with Smith to furnish him orders for many thousands of leather pouches each as are used by rural letter carriers. The price agreed upon was 90 cents per pouch; the actual value was less than 50 cents. Smith was to pay them the difference between 90 and 50 cents per pouch. It is said at the Department that the total number of pouches which were purchased for \$18,000, or \$18,000 in all. Smith received and retained of this for his own use \$10,000. The remaining \$8,000 was paid to McGregor and Upton. The Government could have bought the pouches from the manufacturers for \$8,000, McGregor was the clerk in charge of the division of rural free delivery supplies and Upton was one of his assistants.

McGregor was taken into custody just as he had finished his work and was about to leave the Department. When Deputy Marshal Springman showed him the warrant and placed him under arrest he nearly fainted, and it was some time before he was able to leave his chair. He was taken to the office of United States Commissioner at 100 Broadway, where he was held for hearing. Upton was arrested at Baltimore and brought to this city. He had difficulty in finding a bondman and will probably be held in custody until to-morrow.

Smith, the leather manufacturer of Baltimore, who is charged with having bribed McGregor and Upton, has not been arrested and no warrant has been sworn out against him. In view of this and the fact that the Department officials will not say what their course will be with regard to him, it is expected that Smith will place the post office inspectors in possession of documentary evidence upon which the Government may proceed. This view is strengthened by the fact that the post office inspectors have been ordered to go to the post office at Baltimore and to get the share of the money paid by the Government to McGregor and Upton. A positive statement is made at the Department, as in the Machen case, that there is conclusive documentary evidence of guilt.

McGregor has been in the postal service since 1881. He was appointed from Nebraska, but later transferred to the District of Columbia. Upton is from Maryland and has been in the Department since 1890. Both of the accused men were personal intimates of Machen, and were interested with him in many business schemes.

In inspection of the contracts which passed through their hands showed Mr. Blawie that the Government had been paying about double the regular rate for mail pouches supplied by the Groff Bros. delivery service and that the two men arrested to-day really had arbitrary power in awarding contracts for such supplies, although subject to the approval of Machen. A further investigation resulted in the discovery of the evidence upon which the arrests were made.

High Post Office Department officials say frankly to-night that still more startling developments will follow within a few days. The names of the men under surveillance cannot be learned, but it is known that information which will be presented to the Grand Jury on Monday, under the title of "The United States vs. John Doe," is really evidence upon which that body will be asked to indict a former high official of the postal service, who severed his connection with the Department shortly after the beginning of the present scandal inquiry.

The decision of the Grand Jury to indict Machen, after a session lasting only six minutes, backed up the action of the frequently made by Postmaster General Payne and Post Office Assistant General Brister that the Government was in possession of "conclusive documentary evidence" which showed Machen's guilt beyond question. Machen, who is a native of New York, was a mail pouch manufacturer and broke down when told of this indictment.

The indictment embraces nine separate counts and covers about twenty-five typewritten pages. It presents that Machen, with intent to have his decision and action as Postmaster General, for the purchase of mail pouches from the Groff Bros. fasteners, influenced thereby, asked and obtained of the Groff Bros. a promise that they would pay to him 40 per cent, of any sum which might be received by them from the United States, through the Post Office Department in payment of the fasteners, the purchase of which might be procured upon Machen's advice.

Machen is charged with having received 40 per cent, in the nature of a commission, or a bribe, on all sales. The dates of the transfer of money and the share received by Machen are recorded as follows:

July 2, 1900, Machen procured the issuance of an order calling for the delivery of 8,000 fasteners and was paid \$3,000, of which \$750 was paid by the Government, and of which sum Machen received \$2,250. On July 10, 1900, 10,000 half fasteners, costing the Government \$6,500, Machen's share, \$2,625. On July 11, 1900, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On July 12, 1900, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On July 13, 1900, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On July 14, 1900, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On July 15, 1900, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On July 16, 1900, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On July 17, 1900, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. 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On February 28, 1901, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On February 29, 1901, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On March 1, 1901, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On March 2, 1901, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On March 3, 1901, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On March 4, 1901, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On March 5, 1901, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On March 6, 1901, 10,000 fasteners, costing the Government \$7,500, Machen's share, \$3,000. On March 7, 1901